IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 2, lines 14-20, please amend the following paragraph:

In one embodiment, the invention features an isolated nucleic acid molecule that includes the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3. In another embodiment, the invention features an isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide including the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2. ~~In another embodiment, the invention features an isolated nucleic acid molecule that includes the nucleotide sequence contained in the plasmid deposited with ATCC® as Accession Number _____.~~

At page 7, line 34 through page 8, line 9, please amend the following paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment, an EPK-55053 polypeptide includes at least one or more of the following domains: a transmembrane domain, a eukaryotic protein kinase domain, a UBA domain, and has an amino acid sequence at least about 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 76%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.1%, 99.2%, 99.3%, 99.4%, 99.5%, 99.6%, 99.7%, 99.8%, 99.9% or more homologous or identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2~~, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number _____~~. In yet another preferred embodiment, an EPK-55053 polypeptide includes at least one or more of the following domains: a transmembrane domain, a eukaryotic protein kinase domain, a UBA domain, and is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions to a complement of a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3. In another preferred embodiment, an EPK-55053 polypeptide includes at least one or more of the following domains: a transmembrane domain, a eukaryotic protein kinase domain, a UBA domain, and has an EPK-55053 activity.

At page 10, line 34 through page 11, line 4, please amend the following paragraph:

The nucleotide sequence of the isolated human EPK-55053 cDNA and the predicted amino acid sequence of the human EPK-55053 polypeptide are shown in Figures 1A-1B and in SEQ ID NOs:1 and 2, respectively. ~~A plasmid containing the nucleotide sequence encoding human EPK-55053 was deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, VA 20110-2209, on _____ and assigned Accession Number _____. This deposit will be maintained under the terms of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure. This deposit was made merely as a convenience for those of skill in the art and is not an admission that a deposit is required under 35 U.S.C. §112.~~

At page 27, line 37 through page 28, line17, please amend the following paragraph:

Any of the many well known protocols used for fusing lymphocytes and immortalized cell lines can be applied for the purpose of generating an anti-EPK-55053 monoclonal antibody (see, *e.g.*, Galfre, G. *et al.* (1977) *Nature* 266:55052; Gefter *et al.* (1977) *supra*; Lerner (1981) *supra*; Kenneth (1980) *supra*). Moreover, the ordinarily skilled worker will appreciate that there are many variations of such methods which also would be useful. Typically, the immortal cell line (*e.g.*, a myeloma cell line) is derived from the same mammalian species as the lymphocytes. For example, murine hybridomas can be made by fusing lymphocytes from a mouse immunized with an immunogenic preparation of the present invention with an immortalized mouse cell line. Preferred immortal cell lines are mouse myeloma cell lines that are sensitive to culture medium containing hypoxanthine, aminopterin and thymidine ("HAT medium"). Any of a number of myeloma cell lines can be used as a fusion partner according to standard techniques, *e.g.*, the P3-NS1/1-Ag4-1, P3-x63-Ag8.653 or Sp2/O-Ag14 myeloma lines. These myeloma lines are available from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, VA 20110-2209. Typically, HAT-sensitive mouse myeloma cells are fused to mouse splenocytes using polyethylene glycol ("PEG"). Hybridoma cells resulting from the fusion are then selected using HAT medium, which kills unfused and unproductively fused myeloma cells (unfused splenocytes die after several days because they are not transformed). Hybridoma cells producing a monoclonal antibody of the invention are detected by screening the hybridoma culture supernatants for antibodies that bind EPK-55053, *e.g.*, using a standard ELISA assay.

At page 70, lines 9-19, please amend the following paragraph:

The invention is based, at least in part, on the discovery of a human gene encoding a novel polypeptide, referred to herein as human EPK-55053. The entire sequence of the human clone 55053 was determined and found to contain an open reading frame termed human "EPK-55053." The nucleotide sequence of the human EPK-55053 gene is set forth in Figures 1A-1B and in the Sequence Listing as SEQ ID NO:1. The amino acid sequence of the human EPK-55053 expression product is set forth in Figures 1A-1B and in the Sequence Listing as SEQ ID NO:2. The EPK-55053 polypeptide comprises about 778 amino acids. The coding region (open reading frame) of SEQ ID NO:1 is set forth as SEQ ID NO:3. ~~Clone Fbh55053, comprising the coding region of human EPK-55053, was deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC®), 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, VA 20110-2209, on _____, and assigned Accession No. _____.~~